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NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

NFIB 82.1/21
4 November 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD PRINCIPALS

FROM: Executive Secretary, NFIB

SUBJECT: Classification of Wing-in-Ground Effect (WIG)
Craft

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The attached memorandum, from the Chairman, Weapon and Space
Systems Intelligence Committee, is forwarded for your information.

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Attachment:
WSSIC Memo

THIS MEMORANDUM IS UNCLASSIFIED
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ATTACHMENT TO
NFIB 82.1/21DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Weapon and Space Systems Intelligence Committee

24 October 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Foreign Intelligence Board

FROM: Chairman

SUBJECT: Classification of Wing-in-Ground Effect (WIG)
Craft [REDACTED]

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1. After an in-depth study of the matter, the Weapon and Space Systems Intelligence Committee has concluded that the Soviet Wing-in-Ground Effect (WIG) Craft should be classified and designated as naval surface platforms. These craft should therefore be included in the surface platform sections of the Naval Order of Battle, projections, and estimates. [REDACTED]

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2. The facts supporting this decision include the following:

- The Soviets classify WIGs as surface platforms and build them in shipyards.
- Three WIGs in the Caspian Sea have been commissioned into the Soviet navy as amphibious assault craft.
- Soviet WIGs are fitted with radars and weapons that are the same as those on some other naval surface craft.
- Lloyds of London has ruled that WIGs shall be considered surface ships for the purpose of insurance. [REDACTED]

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3. Designator actions for naval surface platforms, and therefore WIGs, are not the responsibility of the WSSIC. However, in view of this WSSIC decision, it is suggested that the DIA contact SACLANT and request the assignment of an unclassified NATO designator to the Soviet WIGs. [REDACTED]

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